

*Put
Sent to Registry
for filing*

OCA FILE

HPSCI

OCA 86-0805
14 March 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Director for Central Intelligence
FROM: Director of Congressional Affairs
SUBJECT: HPSCI Access to Texts of Presidential Findings

1. As you know, Chairman Hamilton has recently written complaining about a number of alleged shortcomings in our covert action notification processes. Although most of the complaints are without merit, one issue where he may have a point is the extent to which HPSCI is receiving the actual texts of Presidential Findings. Since the "Advisory" mechanism was established a little over a year ago, the Committees have not received quoted, direct texts of Findings even though the Advisories in most cases have contained the same language as have been in the Findings.

2. We are due to meet with Mike O'Neil (who drafted the Hamilton letter) and Tom Latimer at deGraffenreid's office tomorrow to discuss these matters. We think that we have resolved the problem on a prospective basis; from now on, the covering letter from the DCI accompanying the Advisory will contain an indented, clearly identified text of the Finding. This was the practice we followed up until a year ago. However, we expect O'Neil to press for access to past Findings so that HPSCI can satisfy itself that the manner the Findings have been described in the Advisories tracks with the actual language approved by the President.

3. I believe that little will be lost, and unnecessary aggravation will be avoided, if we try to cooperate with HPSCI on this. The bottom line is that HPSCI has a legal right to know exactly what the President has signed off on, and it can legitimately assert that our Advisories have technically fallen short in that regard. Accordingly, I recommend that we allow O'Neil access to past Findings subject to the following conditions:

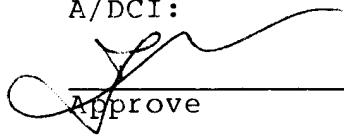
- (a) O'Neil will be the only staffer allowed access, and he will not be allowed to retain copies;
- (b) the President's signature will be deleted from the Findings he sees;
- (c) an OCA representative will be present at all times during his review; and
- (d) it will be made clear to O'Neil that this is being done on a one-time basis only.

STAT



David D. Gries

A/DCI:



Approve

Disapprove